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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 ICA-20 COME-00 SS-15
NSC-05 L-03 DLOS-09 EB-08 INT-05 H-02 SP-02
ITC-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /109 W
----------005711 202205Z /66
R 191730Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2217
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HALIFAX 0317

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS ENRG ETRD PBOR CA US
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON FISHERIES AND BOUNDARIES
NEGOTIATION

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JUNE 19 EDITORIAL IN HALIFAX CHRONICLE-HERALD ENTITLED "FEARS ABOUT FISHERY":

"AS WE RESUME TALKS TODAY AIMED AT FURTHER SETTLING THE CURRENT FISHERIES DISPUTE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, IT IS DIFFICULT TO REFRAIN FROM APPREHENSION.

"THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING EVER SINCE THE TWO NATIONS UNILATERALLY ESTABLISHED OFFSHORE ZONES. SUBSEQUENT DEBATE OVER BOUNDARY LINES HAS INVOLVED A GREAT MANY MAN HOURS. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT 95 PER CENT OF THE MATTERS OF CONFLICT HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. BUT THE REMAINING FIVE PER CENT INVOLVES SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT NEGOTIATING AREAS.

"AS THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING OUT THE AGREE-MENTS GO AGAIN TO THE BARGAINING TABLE THEIR PROBLEM IS RENDERED MORE COMPLICATED BY FACTORS ADDED TO THE
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SITUATION IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. UNITED STATES FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE CANADIAN WATERS. IN THE GREAT LAKES, RETALIATORY ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES HAS CLOSED CERTAIN ZONES TO CANADIAN SPORTS FISHERMEN.

"WHAT MUST BE FEARED NOW IS THE POSSIBILITY OF

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TARIFFS BEING ASSESSED AGAINST CANADIAN FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS GOING INTO THE UNITED STATES. THE GREATER PART OF OUR MARKET LIES SOUTH OF THE BORDER AND IT COULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO OUR FISHERY IF ANY ACTION WERE TO BE TAKEN WHICH WOULD PRICE OR CLOSE US OUT OF THAT MARKET.

"IT IS TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ANNOUNCED ITS WILLINGNESS TO WAIVE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON ABOUT DOLS 200 MILLION WORTH OF CANADIAN FISH IMPORTED ANNUALLY. BUT THE UNDERTAKING IS VALID ONLY FOR A FEW MONTHS AND IS CONDITIONED BY THE REQUIREMENT THAT CANADA REDUCE OR ELIMINATE A VARIETY OF SUBSIDY PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE ENABLED CANADIAN FISHERMEN TO BE COMPETITIVE. THE END RESULT, INSOFAR AS OUR FISHERY IS CONCERNED, MAY NOT BE AS ADVANTAGEOUS AS THE PROMISE TO WAIVE DUTIES APPEARS TO SUGGEST.

"SOMETHING OF WHAT VERY EASILY COULD HAPPEN IS INDICATED BY THE CURRENT DIFFICULTY SURROUNDING THE OIL REFINING INDUSTRY IN EASTERN CANADA. THE REFINERIES ARE NOT OPERATING TO CAPACITY BECAUSE CONSUMPTION IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO CREATE THE NECESSARY DEMAND. MEANWHILE, IN THE NORTH-EASTERN UNITED STATES, THERE IS A NEED FOR VARIOUS
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PETROLEUM RELATED PRODUCTS. THESE COULD BE PROVIDED FROM THE REFINERIES OF ATLANTIC CANADA WERE IT NOT FOR THE EXISTENCE OF TARIFFS AND REGULATIONS. OFFICIALS OF THE EASTERN PROVINCES AND OF THE NEW ENGLAND STATES ARE BEING URGED TO PRESSURE FOR THE RELAXATION OF THE REGULATIONS WHICH ARE MILITATING AGAINST CANADIAN INDUSTRY AND AMERICAN CONSUMERS.

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----------001934 202204Z /66
R 191750Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2218
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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"IT WOULD NOT TAKE VERY MUCH FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ERECT A TRADE BARRIER AGAINST CANADIAN FISH. ONCE THAT HAPPENED, IT WOULD TAKE A VERY LONG TIME TO REDEEM THE SITUATION.

"TO BE KEPT IN MIND, TOO, IS THE PRECARIOUS POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF CANADIAN CLAIMS ON GEORGES BANK. THAT VALUABLE FISHING GROUND, LONG A TRADITIONAL GOAL OF NOVA SCOTIAN FISHERMEN, IS VERY MUCH WANTED BY THE AMERICANS. IF THE BOUNDARY IS DRAWN SO AS TO GIVE IT TO THEM, WE LOSE A VALUABLE RESOURCE. IF OUR CLAIMS ARE HONOURED, THERE MAY BE RETALIATORY ACTION CLOSING AMERICAN MARKETS TO, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR SCALLOPS. IN EITHER EVENT, WE STAND TO LOSE.

"CANADA IS NOT IN A VERY GOOD BARGAINING POSITION. THE NEGOTIATORS REPRESENTING THIS COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO BE MOST SKILFUL IF OUR TRADITIONAL FISHING GROUNDS AND MARKETS ARE TO BE PRESERVED. THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BE APPREHENSIVE AS THE TALKS ARE RENEWED."
MOORE

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